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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 5971st meeting of the Security Council, held on 4 September 2008, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Cyprus", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council warmly welcomes the launch of fully-fledged negotiations between the two leaders, under the Good Offices Mission of the Secretary-General, aimed at the reunification of Cyprus.

"The Security Council commends the two leaders for the progress made since their first meeting on 21 March and supports their common approach. The Security Council calls on both sides to continue to work together in a constructive and positive manner in order to reach a comprehensive and durable settlement approved in separate and simultaneous referenda. The Security Council looks forward to progress in the negotiations and reiterates its readiness to support the process.

"The Security Council welcomes the appointment of Alexander Downer as the Secretary General's Special Advisor and looks forward to being briefed on the progress of the Good Offices process."

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